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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): UNIVER-
SITY OF BRISTOL (GB/GB); 3rd Floor, Senate House,
Tyndall Avenue, Bristol, Bristol BS8 1TH (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): NAPIER,
Johnathan, A. (GB/GB); 8 Ninnings Cottages, West
Common, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2JH (GB).

SAYANOVA, Olga (RU/GB); Harpenden, Hertford-
shire AL5 2JQ (GB). LAZARUS, Colin, M. (GB/GB);
119 York Road, Montpelier, Bristol BS6 5QG (GB). QI,
Baoyu (GB/GB); 4 Cumberland House, Norfolk Crescent,
Bath and South East, Somerset BA1 2BG (GB). HEINZ,
Ernst (DE/DE); Ohnhorststr. 18, 22609 Hamburg (DE).
ZANK, Thorsten (DE/DE); Seckenheimer Str. 4-6,
68165 Mannheim (DE). ZÄHRINGER, Ulrich (DE/DE);
Theodor-Sturm-Str. 34A, 22926 Ahrensburg (DE).

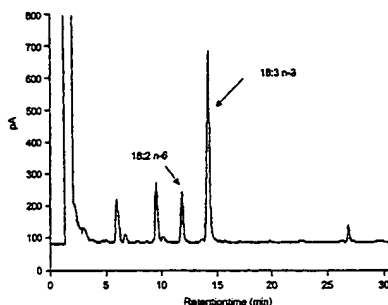
(74) Agent: PRESSLER, Uwe; c/o BASF Aktiengesellschaft,
67056 Ludwigshafen (DE).

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(54) Title: NOVEL METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION OF POLYUNSATURATED FATTY ACIDS



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to an improved process for the specific production of poly-unsaturated omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids and a process for the production of triglycerides having an increased content of unsaturated fatty acids, in particular omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids having at least two double bonds and a 20 or 22 carbon atom chain length. The invention relates to the production of a transgenic organism, preferably a transgenic plant or a transgenic microorganism, having an increased content of fatty acids, oils or lipids containing C20- or C22- fatty acids with a delta-5, 7, 8, 10 double bond, respectively due to the expression of a delta-8-desaturase and a delta-9-elongase from organisms such as plants preferably Algae like Isochrysis galbana or Euglena gracilis. In addition the invention relates to a process for the production of poly unsaturated fatty acids such as Eicosapentaenoic, Arachidonic, Docosapentaenoic or Docosahexaenoic acid through the co-expression of a delta-8-desaturase, a delta-9-elongase and a delta-5 desaturase in organisms such as microorganisms or plants. The invention additionally relates to the use of specific nucleic acid sequences encoding for the aforementioned proteins with delta-8-desaturase-, delta-9-elongase- or delta-5-desaturase-activity, nucleic acid constructs, vectors and organisms containing said nucleic acid sequences. The invention further relates to unsaturated fatty acids and triglycerides having an increased content of at least 1 % by weight of unsaturated fatty acids and use thereof.

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